

The Church of the Epiphany

Proper 7, Year A

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 25, 2023

10:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Welcome to Epiphany. All the words of our worship service appear in this service leaflet. The Episcopal tradition values common prayer; we invite you to pray with us today. We hope the act of praying together in community will shape your faith and help you grow closer to God. If we can pray for you, please let the priest know or put a note in the offering plate when it is passed. Parts of the service which the people pray aloud appear in bold. Page numbers referenced in this leaflet correspond to page numbers in our Book of Common Prayer, the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

Hymns with an S in front of them are our service music. These hymns are in the blue Hymnal 1982 in the frontmost section. Other hymns, noted simply by their number, are from the rear portion of the hymnal. Please join in the singing; you don't need to be a stellar vocalist – simply sing joyfully!

(The worship service is live-streamed. Streaming and recording conclude at The Great Thanksgiving. Holy Communion is not recorded.)

Please silence your cell phones and electronic devices

Prelude: If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee – R. Manz

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

The people stand

Processional Hymn 524 I love thy kingdom, Lord

The people standing, the Priest-Celebrant joins the people in facing the Altar and says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. BCP 355

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.**

Amen.

The Priest-Celebrant says the Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Gloria in Excelsis is sung by all, standing

Hymnal S-280

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Priest-Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Priest-Celebrant faces the Altar and says the Collect of the Day

BCP 230

Celebrant Let us pray.

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your
holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom

you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS

BCP 357

The people sit

Reader A Reading from Jeremiah [20:7-13]

O Lord, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.
For whenever I speak, I must cry out,
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.
For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.
"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him,
and take our revenge on him."
But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.
O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous,
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.
Sing to the Lord;
praise the Lord!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence follows

Reader The Psalm for today is portions of
Psalm 69 [8-20] [*Jubilate Deo*]

We will read responsively by whole verse.

BCP 679

8 Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach, *
and shame has covered my face.

**9 I have become a stranger to my own kindred, *
an alien to my mother's children.**

10 Zeal for your house has eaten me up; *
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon
me.

**11 I humbled myself with fasting, *
but that was turned to my reproach.**

12 I put on sack-cloth also, *
and became a byword among them.

**13 Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, *
and the drunkards make songs about me.**

14 But as for me, this is my prayer to you, *
at the time you have set, O Lord:

**15 "In your great mercy, O God, *
answer me with your unfailing help.**

16 Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; *
let me be rescued from those who hate me
and out of the deep waters.

**17 Let not the torrent of waters wash over me,
neither let the deep swallow me up; *
do not let the Pit shut its mouth upon me.**

18 Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind; *
in your great compassion, turn to me.'

**19 "Hide not your face from your servant; *
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.**

20 Draw near to me and redeem me; *
because of my enemies deliver me.

Reader A Reading from Romans [6:1b-11]

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence follows

The people stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Laudate Dominum

Songs from Taizé

The people and choir sing.

Sung through three, six, or nine times

**Laudate Dominum,
Laudate Dominum
Omnes gentes, alleluia!**

Then, all standing, the Priest-Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to Matthew [10:24-39].

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but

whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

After the Gospel, the Priest-Celebrant says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev’d Kristin Wickersham

Silence follows

The people stand. The Priest-Celebrant and people say

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
 by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the Prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessions for Year A

The Intercessor and people pray responsively

Intercessor We have been united with Christ in his death, and made one with him in his resurrection. In this newness of life, we raise our hearts in joyful prayer, responding, “Kyrie eleison.”

Silence follows

That the Church and her people may name the stumbling blocks that retard their work and ministry, so that they may focus once again upon the sovereignty of Christ, who is the source of all our blessings, let us pray.

People **Kyrie eleison.**

Intercessor That we may be softened by the remembrance of

personal darkness and despair and give generously to the relief of the hungry and fearful, the sick and those who work multiple jobs and still struggle to provide for the basic necessities of life; let us pray.

People **Kyrie eleison.**

Intercessor For all who hold positions of public trust and responsibility, that they may serve the common good with integrity and sound moral judgment; let us pray.

People **Kyrie eleison.**

Intercessor For those who are being cast out of their native land through political chaos, religious persecution, war and famine, natural disasters, and reasons that remain unknown, that they may find receptive countries as they search for a new homeland; let us pray.

People **Kyrie eleison.**

Intercessor For those who have died, that they may join the community of saints, in whose fellowship we will one day reside; let us pray.

People **Kyrie eleison.**

Intercessor That the gift of Christ's Body and Blood may sustain and strengthen us as we share the faith of the saints who have come before; let us pray.

People **Kyrie eleison.**

Intercessor Let us endure faithfully in the practice of intercession, as we continue our petitions.

Silence follows

The people may add their own intercessions and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.

The Priest-Celebrant concludes with a Collect.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and

unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Priest-Celebrant reads one of the sentences from the Penitential Order

BCP 352

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14,16*

All who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking in God's holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

The Priest Celebrant then says

BCP 359

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

The Priest and People say

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

The Priest stands and pronounces absolution.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

All stand

The Priest-Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Priest-Celebrant and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord

The Priest-Celebrant says to the people

BCP 376

I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness; I will sing and speak praises to the Lord. *Psalm 27:6*

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

The people sit

The people are invited to place their offerings and commitment/pledge cards into offering plates, which are brought to the altar as an offering to God, blessed by the Priest-Celebrant, and used for the ministries of the Church

Anthem: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing – arr. R. Martin

Hymn 424 For the fruit of all creation

Traditional Welsh melody – tune name, AR HYD Y NOS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The people stand.

The Priest-Celebrant faces them and says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Altar, the Priest-Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS

Hymnal S-125

Priest-Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel

Then the Priest-Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat:

This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Priest-Celebrant and People

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The Priest-Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People **AMEN.**

The Priest-Celebrant continues

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

People and Priest-Celebrant

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. *Amen.***

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Priest-Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread

A period of silence is kept

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

THE AGNUS DEI

Hymnal S-161

Priest-Celebrant and People

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

Facing the people, the Priest-Celebrant says the following Invitation

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Priest-Celebrant and ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people

An Invitation to Baptism

The table is open. All baptized Christians, regardless of their denomination, are invited to receive communion at Epiphany. If you would like to be Baptized, thereby entering into membership in the mystical Body of Christ, the Church, please contact the Priest-in-Charge.

For Those Who Wish a Blessing

All are welcome to come to the altar and receive a blessing from the priest. If you would like a blessing, please indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

How to Receive Communion

To receive the bread, lay your right hand in your left hand, palm open. To receive the wine, as the priest brings the chalice to your mouth, gently touch the base of the chalice and help guide it to your lips. The proper response after receiving is to say, "Amen."

A Note About Intinction

We do not allow the practice of intinction, or dipping the bread into the consecrated wine. If you do not wish to receive the consecrated wine, please cross your arms over your chest as the chalice bearer approaches. Although we encourage reception in both kinds, the grace of God present in the holy sacrament is fully available in the bread or the wine alone.

If you would like communion brought to you in your pew, please tell an usher and the priest will come to you.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

BCP 365

Celebrant The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
Communicant **Amen.**

Celebrant The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.
Communicant **Amen.**

The people join the choir in singing the hymns during Communion.

Hymns During Communion

Hymn 655 O Jesus, I have promised

Taizé Chant

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia!

After Communion, the Priest-Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Priest-Celebrant and People

BCP 366

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.***

The Priest-Celebrant blesses the people.

The blessing of God Almighty, The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. ***Amen.***

Post-Communion Hymn 537 Christ for the world we sing!

THE DISMISSAL

The Priest-Celebrant dismisses the people.

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: How Firm a Foundation – D. Johnson

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Joy Baynes in loving memory of George & Penelope Baynes and Barry Jenkins.

An Outline of the Faith commonly called the Catechism

Sin and Redemption

Q. What is sin?

A. Sin is the seeking of our own will instead of the will of God, thus distorting our relationship with God, with other people, and with all creation.

Q. How does sin have power over us?

A. Sin has power over us because we lose our liberty when our relationship with God is distorted.

Q. What is redemption?

A. Redemption is the act of God which sets us free from the power of evil, sin, and death.

Q. How did God prepare us for redemption?

A. God sent the prophets to call us back to himself, to show us our need for redemption, and to announce the coming of the Messiah.

Q. What is meant by the Messiah?

A. The Messiah is one sent by God to free us from the power of sin, so that with the help of God we may live in harmony with God, within ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation.

Q. Who do we believe is the Messiah?

A. The Messiah, or Christ, is Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son of God.

The Church of the Epiphany

An Episcopal Church and member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

8000 Hermitage Road
Richmond, Virginia 23228
(804) 266-2503

Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
9:00 a.m. – noon

The Rev'd Kristin P. R. Wickersham, Priest-in-Charge
Mrs. Anita Williams, Minister of Music
Mrs. Lucy Whitlock, Parish Administrator
Mr. Timon Kenyi, Sexton
Marty Shephard, Treasurer

The Vestry

John Sarvay (Sr. Warden), Randy Holden (Jr. Warden),
Jeri Townley (Register),
Scott Blackwell, Gray Corbett, John Norris, Mirendy Smith, Billy Tucker

COMMUNICATION CARD
June 25, 2023

Welcome! You have blessed us with your presence. Please tell us how we can best serve you by completing the Communication Card.

Please place in the offering basket, hand it to an usher, or place on the table in the vestibule.

I'm looking for a church home
 I'd like to speak with a clergy member
 I'm ready to become a member
 I'm just visiting today

Name & Address Please update

Phone _____

Email _____

Children's names and ages

Please give me more information about:

Children's / Youth Programs
 Social events
 Outreach opportunities
 Classes and Small Group Studies
 Baptism or Confirmation
 How I can get involved

How did you hear about Epiphany?

(over)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

New to the Prayer List: Shirley Hughson, Donna Nuttal & family—niece of Gina Richardson, Theodore Osborne—friend of Mtr. Kristin, Renee Stone—friend of Jennifer & Billy Tucker

Parishioners: Mike Young, Bob Jimerson, Milton Jenkins, Herb Williams, Martha Jenkins, Buddy Dunn, Timon Kenyi

Homebound: Ray Hampton, Dot Hudson, Fran LaVigne, Marion Magruder, Joyce Melton, Ina Stickel, and Irene Morris

Family & Friends: David Thabet and Elizabeth Mickel—relatives of Sandy Ruder & Denise Russell, Maratha Kadi—Timon's mother, Bill McCarty—Ann Poates' brother, Kim Prince—friend of Lim Ludwig, Alex Kieber—Benjamin Holden's brother-in-law, John Henry Rice—son of Fr. John & Mackie Rice, the family of Brian Taggart—nephew of Ellie Tuck, Johnny Jorstad—Martha Jenkins son & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's brother, Jennie Gundersen—friend of Irene Temple, Judy Watson—Martha Jenkins niece & Mary Shephard & Sandy Tignor's cousin, William Higgins—Harrison Higgins' grandson, Helen Adams—friend of Gina Richardson, Virginia Barrett—Conny Barrett's daughter-in-law, Jean Stone—John Stone's mother

Prayers for the departed:

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

Today's Ministers

Weekly Worship


Sundays at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Contact info:
The Rev. Kristin P. R. Wickersham, SOSc
Priest in Charge
Cell Phone: 804-502-1891

8000 Hermitage Road
804-266-2503

Office hours:
Tuesday—Thursday 9am-12noon
www.epiphanyepiscopal.com

Ushers: Lee Poates, Frosine Corbett
Acolytes: Maura & Cora Whitlock
Lessons: Cheri Blackwell
Prayers of the People: Cheri Blackwell
Chalice: Randy Holden
Sun. School Helper:
Altar Guild: Crystal & John Sarvay
Coffee Hour:
Counters: Kim Ludwig, Gray Corbett



The Church of the Epiphany
ANNOUNCEMENTS
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 25, 2023

Welcome—we are glad you are here! Know that whoever you are, and where ever you are in your spiritual journey, you have a place here. If you are new, or haven't yet given us your contact information, please complete the attached communication card and place it in the plate so that you can learn more about Epiphany's community.

Introducing the Lesson

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

In our Hebrew scripture lesson Jeremiah complains to the Lord. He is torn between wanting to give up his mission and his need to speak in God's name and put his trust in God. Jeremiah has been given a most difficult ministry. In the period shortly before the final defeat of Judah and in time of exile, all he can do is prophesy violence and destruction as God's judgment on the people. Even his so-called friends persecute him. Yet the Lord is on his side.

2nd Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

In this reading we learn that, as Christian disciples have been joined with Christ in his death through baptism, so they are to know a resurrection like his. In union with Christ we have died to our sinful selves and have begun to experience a new way of life. In one sense, Paul recognizes, our freedom from death still awaits us in the future. Yet, in another sense, we already know what it means to be alive to God in Jesus Christ and to realize the true meaning of life.

The Gospel: Matthew 10:24—39

In our gospel Jesus warns his disciples of troubles to come, but offers them the assurance of the Father's care and his own readiness to support them before God when they speak up for him. Because they are Jesus' disciples, people will do to them what they did to him. There will be persecution and divided families, but disciples are not to be afraid. They are to love Jesus more than father or mother, son or daughter, and to be willing to lose their own lives for Christ's sake. Those who live in this way will actually find their true lives, and God will hold them fast.

On the Calendar and Coming up

Sun. June 25th
8:15 am — Holy Eucharist
10:30 am — Holy Eucharist

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Wed. June 28th
Noon Holy Eucharist
6:00 pm — Bible Study

Fri. June 30th
7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

Sat. July 1st
8:30 am Outreach Bag Lunches —The Yellow Team

Sun. July 2nd
8:15 am—Holy Eucharist
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist

7:30pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Joy Baynes in loving memory of George & Penelope Baynes and Barry Jenkins.

Congratulations to John Sarvay— Sr. Warden, **Randy Holden**—Jr. Warden and **Jeri Townley**—Register for next year!

Stewardship: As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10

Attendance: June 18, 2023
8:15 am 5
10:30 am 71

Outreach Opportunities



The diaper ministry continues to hold diaper distribution on the third Saturday of every month from 10 am to 12 noon. This inspirational ministry has been touching families lives in our community since 2018 and continues to welcome new families each month. This ministry offers the parish an outreach opportunity to share God's love and develop relationships within our community. The most recent diaper distribution was held Saturday, June 17th and **the next diaper distribution day is on July 15th**. A sign-up sheet is on the outreach board in the parish hallway for anyone interested in volunteering. Donations of diapers (sizes 5 and 6) and wipes are also appreciated. Thank you again to everyone for your continued support of this ministry!



A copy of the **2023 homeless lunch schedule** is available on the bulletin board in the parish hallway if anyone would like a copy. If anyone is interested in taking part in this ministry, ALL are welcome! Contact Mary Sam Abernathy (msabernathy88@gmail.com) or the team lead, for the team you are interested in helping. **The next lunches are scheduled to be prepared and delivered by the Yellow Team on July 1st**. This ministry is currently in its 24th year! **Donations of paper lunch bags, sandwich bags and napkins** are always welcome as well and can be dropped at the church office. Additionally, if you have further questions or concerns, I am always available to answer any questions. Crystal Sarvay, Outreach Coordinator (crystalsarvay@gmail.com).



Lambs Basket continues to need donations of food items, particularly cereals, peanut butter, jams, jellies, and canned foods. Please, bring in your donations and leave them in the parish hallway in the red wagon. Thank you for your continued support of this project.

If anyone has any outreach projects or needs, they are aware of in the community, please share them! See Crystal Sarvay, Outreach Coordinator, or email at epiphanyrvaparishnurse@gmail.com.

*The love and kindness that our parish shares is beyond amazing!
Love lives here!*

COMMUNICATION CARD

June 25, 2023

Our Communication Card is for **all people at The Church of the Epiphany** so that you can share your thoughts and prayers, and request information.

If you are new, please complete the opposite side so we also have your contact information.

I'd like more information about an upcoming event or program

I am RSVPing or signing up for:

I am interested in learning more about how to be part of the following ministries or programs:

- Music
- Altar Guild
- Office help
- Christian Ed
- Outreach
- Ushers
- Chalice Bearer
- Greeters
- Pastoral Care
- Readers
- Prayer Team
- _____

Prayer Requests / Comments